

# THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

A ROYAL CORONATION DURBAR in India at the end of the present year has already been forecasted by a section of the Press. At the moment of writing the official communiqué regarding the actual decision arrived at on the subject of the King's Indian visit has still to be published. That His Majesty hoped to visit India was, of course, made known in the King's Speech last October, but significantly perhaps no date was then mentioned. One imagines that in the interval that has elapsed since that general announcement, His Majesty's advisers have had to give very careful thought to the political conditions prevailing in India, and though the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, appears to have lost none of his sturdy optimism regarding what he holds to be the excellent results produced by Congress acceptance of office and the working of the Government of India Act in its first stage of provincial autonomy, the second very important stage, that of the inauguration of a Federal scheme uniting British India with the Indian States, shows no sign as yet of being in the process of accomplishment in the very near future. It is true that both Whitehall and Simla seem to be very hopeful that in the new Instrument of Accession that has been drafted they have met the main objections advanced by the Princes to the former conditions suggested to them. But though most of the major Princes have accepted Federation in principle, it would perhaps be unduly sanguine to expect that they will now be in a great hurry to see Federation brought into being. And if the Hindu Mahasabha has rather surprisingly given its blessing to Federation, in company with the Indian Liberal Party, the Congress attitude to union with the Princes under any scheme that does not make Indian State India subject to Congress domination does not seem to have undergone any appreciable change. In these circumstances it might very well be thought advisable to defer the Royal visit to India till the "boon" of Federation had a better chance of being both easily realised and properly appreciated. But at the moment one can but "wait and see" what Whitehall, in its leisurely way and its own good time, has to tell us.

IN THIS MATTER of the Royal visit to India one cannot help thinking that the Cabinet and the India Office have displayed a surprising lack of judgment in giving out vague announcements well calculated to provoke public and journalistic speculation both in India and in this country. If the King's visit to India is not to take place this December, why, it may be asked, was it necessary to refer to it so pointedly in the King's Speech in

October last? Or if it was deemed necessary to let India know as early as possible that the precedent established by George V's Coronation Durbar in 1911 was to be followed by the present King-Emperor, why not have made it clear in the King's Speech that the date of the Royal visit might have to be as late as December, 1939? When it was allowed to be made known at the beginning of last week that Lord Zetland's summons to Buckingham Palace was for the purpose of conferring with His Majesty on the subject of the Indian visit and that an official announcement about the decisions reached would shortly follow, what more natural that most people should conclude that it was certain that His Majesty would be going out to India in the next cold weather? If that were not the meaning to be attached to the Royal summons to Lord Zetland, why had not the India Office troubled to throw out at least a discreet hint that the Royal visit to India might have to be postponed for another year? As things are, if there is to be a postponement, the disappointment to His Majesty's loyal subjects in India is bound to be considerably increased by Whitehall's maladroitness in encouraging false hopes.

THE CORONATION DURBAR of 1911 involved, it may be recalled, a tremendous amount of preparation. A vast city of tents had to be erected in the low ground hidden from the old Delhi by the historic Ridge, and many miles of roads, railway lines and telephone and telegraph wires had to be laid down to give this encampment all the facilities required for gathering together and accommodating the huge and very distinguished assemblage participating in the functions and gorgeous ceremonial of the Royal Durbar. To-day there is a sumptuously built New Delhi—not, be it incidentally mentioned, on the foundations laid near the Ridge by the King-Emperor George V, but many miles away from the former Durbar site—and presumably this with its Princely Palaces, its magnificent Government House, and its up-to-date facilities, will provide the scene of the next Royal Durbar and render the work of preparing for it a far easier and more speedily executed business than that which Sir John Hewett and his helpers had to face twenty-seven years ago. Even so, the task of preparation for an event of such importance as a Royal Durbar is not one that Indian authority is at all likely to regard as capable of being undertaken at very short notice.

THE NATIONALIST VICTORY in Aragon shows that the civil war in Spain with or without foreign intervention is still as far from being decided as ever. The friends of the Barcelona Government were loud in

their delight at the issue of the Teruel battle. They were so certain that it foretold the victory of their friends. To all appearances General Franco has won a bigger victory to-day than he lost a while ago and the final upshot of the struggle in Spain is as doubtful as ever it was. There is one thing certain. No nation can prevent the bombardment of Barcelona or Salamanca merely because it dislikes the idea of having its own cities bombarded. War is not like a game, because it is based on fundamentals. A football player will accept the judgment of a referee, because his decision is not really a matter of life or death. On the other hand, a nation that has its back against the wall will always hold itself outside any arrangements of international law, unless the breach of that law is more dangerous to its existence than its immediate foe.

**THE ANNOUNCEMENT** that the King and Queen will visit Paris at the end of June will be as well received in this country as in France. Royal visits are appreciated because they are rarities. During this century there have not been many official tours across the Channel by our rulers, nor have the representatives of the French Republic often come to this country with that official show which implies an event of political importance. It is just as well that we should all remember how France and England bore the overpowering burden of a war without which there would have been no freedom left in the world. In the spring of 1914, King George and Queen Mary paid a State visit to Paris and conquered at once the hearts of all the inhabitants. A few months later the meaning of that friendship was put to the test and the understanding that ought to have been an alliance held good through all the trials of a four years war. We hope that the coming Royal visit will be remembered as a pledge of European peace.

**TREE PLANTING** as a precaution against drought, the incursion of the desert, or the growth of arid wastes, or to check soil erosion, is already receiving a considerable amount of attention in various parts of the world, including certain overseas portions of the Empire. It is a measure that must command a great deal of sympathetic interest, for it has an æsthetic as well as practical value. A landscape without trees can be exceedingly grim and forbidding; it can hardly be regarded as beautiful, and a tree, as the Bible reminds us, can be both "pleasant to the sight and good for food." But mankind in the past has too often looked upon the tree as something to provide for his own immediate needs rather than to preserve for its utilities. Primitive man no doubt suffered from an excess of trees, and perhaps some of his callousness towards them has been handed down through the centuries of advancing civilisation. But now at last there are signs of a changed outlook, even if appreciation of the value and beauty of trees is not as widespread as some people would wish. There is, for example, in England to-day a Society including in its membership a number of very distinguished names in

all professions. This Society, known as "The Men of the Trees," aims to create "a universal tree sense and to encourage all to plant, protect and love trees everywhere." Its journal, *Trees*, under the editorship of the Society's founder, Mr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, has just come out in a new and improved form, and offers to its readers the slogan "Beautility" for their future propagandising efforts. "Our woodlands," it says, "must be beautiful as well as useful." With that sentiment it is difficult not to agree.

**CANADA IS ENTERING** the British market for fish on a scale which she has never before achieved—not for herrings, the British brand of which is unbeatable anywhere, but for halibut and salmon. In chilled or frozen form nearly 6,000,000 lbs. of salmon and well over 1,700,000 lbs. of halibut were sent over by Canadian producers last year, and British housewives paid something like £200,000 for the privilege of serving the fish to their home folk. A trade with Britain in other kinds of fish besides halibut and salmon may also be established before very long, for modern methods of freezing and transportation make it quite feasible to deliver fish over the Atlantic in perfect condition, which would, under the more rudimentary conditions of preservation, have been impossible.

**MR. DE MILLE** has always taken for his motto "The bigger the spectacle, the bigger the success"—and no one can say that *The Ten Commandments* and *The Plainsman* were failures. His latest picture, *The Buccaneer*, at the Carlton, looks expensive enough, and it has as much reality about it as Claudette Colbert's *Cleopatra*, which was another of Mr. de Mille's creations. The hero of *The Buccaneer* is Charles Lafitte, the famous New Orleans pirate, who goes to the help of Stonewall Jackson when, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the theatre of war between America and ourselves changed from Washington and the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. Fredric March makes a musical comedy hero out of this swash-buckler, but there are plenty of spectacular scenes in the swamps and in the Gulf; and two good performances—one from Akim Tamaroff as Lafitte's chief lieutenant, and the other from Hugh Sothorn, as the simple, high-minded Jackson.

**AT THE ARTS THEATRE** *But for the Grace*, by Travers Otway, is a clever play in fifteen short scenes. A young boy of great promise, unable to take up a scholarship owing to lack of funds, drifts from job to job, and finally takes to crime. He ends by murdering a worthless girl who betrays his trust. The author asks for sympathy for this boy, and propaganda runs through the play. The plea is justifiable, though the boy has not been entirely without chances. Some of the scenes are too short to be convincing. Lewis Shaw is excellent as the young man, and Deirdre Doyle and R. Meadows-White give good interpretations of a landlady and a pavement artist respectively.

## Leading Articles

### HITLER THE ALL-HIGHEST

OPINION in this country can only welcome the steps taken by Herr Hitler to reorganise the German Army and Foreign Office, and to mark the fifth anniversary of his accession to power by what the *Times* calls a general post. When it was suddenly decided to postpone the summoning of the Reichstag for that occasion, the press of Europe wherever freedom of speech remained was full of wild surmises. Many theories were put forward to account for the postponement, but the secret was so well kept that its real significance was nowhere grasped. The easiest explanation suggested was that the Führer with his well-known tact and self-control had decided to hold his tongue because the international situation was so delicate that any words he might utter might set loose an avalanche. Events have shown that Herr Hitler was influenced not by any world crisis but by difficulties at home. The time had come for another "clean-up," though its methods have so far been less drastic than that of June 30, 1934, when so many of the Führer's supposed friends and supporters had their activities violently transferred to another world.

The Prussian tradition that the Army possessed the country, not the country the Army, still survived. Herr Hitler's dominance was not complete so long as the General Staff could have its own independent point of view and was able to back its ideas with the moral influence of armed force. National-Socialism could not have won its victory in 1933 without the support of the army, and its gratitude does not go so far as bowing to the army's conservative beliefs. It was a chance that Marshal von Blomberg, the Minister of War, had transgressed one of the army's most cherished traditions. He had married a lady who was not born within the caste socially recognised by the military and the Commander-in-Chief, General von Fritsch, appears to have represented to Hitler the feelings caused by this marriage in army circles. Both Hitler and Goering had given sanction to that marriage by their presence.

Marshal von Blomberg's wedding let loose the avalanche. His resignation was accompanied by that of von Fritsch and an announcement that seven generals were suddenly to leave the army and six the Air Force. At the same time a complete Foreign Office and diplomatic reshuffle is announced. Herr von Ribbentrop whose chow dog has become a familiar figure on Carlton House Terrace is to take over the Foreign Ministry and the Ambassadors in the key posts of London, Rome, Vienna and Tokyo, have been recalled. Baron von Neurath the Foreign Minister appears to have been kicked upstairs into the Presidency of the new

Cabinet Council. Herr Hitler himself assumes the personal and direct command of all the armed forces of Germany. It is natural that the rest of the world should ask what do all these sudden and violent changes mean. They are less sensational than those which led to the deaths of so many of Hitler's associates nearly four years ago, but their significance must be of vital importance.

From the British point of view they are satisfactory, because they set opinion in this country face to face with uncamouflaged truth. It has so often been said by those who are regarded as authorities on Germany that all was for the best in the best of all possible Europes, because any extravagance which the Führer might indulge in would be checked by Blomberg, the mouthpiece of the Army, which was determined that there should be no war with Great Britain on the wrong side. It is rather indelicate nowadays to suggest that dictators are mortal. Yet in sober moments it has to be admitted that the days of Hitler and Mussolini are numbered and that sooner or later they must go the way of all flesh. In the past, anxiety about the Führer's future demise was quieted by the assurance that he would at once be replaced with the consent of the Army. Blomberg and the Junkers knew that war in present circumstances was too dangerous and their influence was the power behind the throne. The recent purge has shown that this influence was a mere fantasy. Hitler reigns and even the Army that was the soul and backbone of Germany lives and flourishes as an accessory of his rule.

What happens in Germany is the affair of the German people and they have handed over their responsibility to Hitler. The struggle between the Churches and National-Socialism is a matter that concerns German consciences though there may be much sympathy in this country for Dr. Niemöller. What does concern the world is the direction that will be given to German foreign policy by the recent upheaval. It is understood that action on the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis is to be speeded up and that the campaign against Bolshevism throughout Europe and the world is to be reinforced. Hitting an idea when it is down is an exhilarating process and just at present Russian Bolshevism does not seem to have much kick in it. Stalin has been rather more thorough than Hitler and has worked on the principle that a corpse is better than a living friend turned foe. The dictatorship of the proletariat has followed Plato's rule and turned into a tyranny and there is really nothing to choose between one tyranny and another. The weakness of Russia as a result—partly at least—of Stalin's lopping of the poppies that grew too high is shown by her failure to intervene in the Far East and by the increased feebleness of her propaganda. There is scarcely a Communist left outside Russia who believes that the Union of Soviets has produced or ever will produce the Communist Utopia. Why then is the famous axis to be whirled more vigorously against the threat of Communism? Sometimes that epithet of "Anti-Communist" approaches perilously to "Anti-British," though so far Communism has formed no integral part of British policy. Be that as it may, it is a good thing to



note the following phrase from the *Manchester Guardian*. "The task of the Western Powers and of all who are interested in the maintenance of the European order is what it was before—to watch Germany with the closest and most critical attention and, while missing no opportunity of coming to an agreement with her on this or that point (provided agreement is possible without prejudice to any non-German Power), to strengthen their defences against whatever dangers 'the German Problem' may contain." When the *Manchester Guardian* calls upon any country to arm, then indeed the world may know that Great Britain has been stirred to the core.

It is a strange and rather encouraging fact that the German upheaval has been accompanied by an improvement in Anglo-Italian relations. Whether that improvement bears fruit depends more on Mussolini than on Mr. Eden or the British Cabinet. The problem of Austria's future is far more vital to Italy than any superficial recognition of Italian supremacy in Abyssinia or of belligerent rights to Spain. It is admitted that the recent German changes entail more vigorous action in Vienna and it may mean that Italian diplomacy which is an expression of the genius of the race has observed that the absorption of Austria in Nazi Germany is a high price to pay for the Berlin-Rome axis.

## IRVING

LIKE Aristides, Irving, the centenary of whose birth is now celebrated, was exiled by his admirers. Not geographically, but morally. They tired of hearing him called, not good, but great. Towards the end of his career it was the mark of a Philistine among that day's intelligentsia to admire Irving; only very obstinate young people like the present writer braved the sneers. This lasted till Irving's death loosed again a flood of genuine emotion that presaged to-day's consecration. A look backward shows that he was greater than we knew.

Irving's genius as an actor apart, his influence persisted after his death, and does still. Almost all the actors of prominence in the last thirty years were products of Irving's company or had come strongly under his influence. Forbes-Robertson, Beerbohm Tree, George Alexander, Haviland, Sir Frank Benson, Sir John Martin Harvey, form a group, not all of equal value, that accounts for a whole era of our stage. It is an influence visible to-day in the work of Mr. John Gielgud, Mr. Franklin Dyall, Mr. Robert Farquharson. It may be said without exaggeration that Irving's is the only influence for good now potent on English acting. There is indeed none other. So strong was the impress left by that prodigious personality. Nor did Irving touch the actor alone. Most modern tricks of lighting the stage date from Irving's revolutionary use of footlights and arcs. His command over mass effects in scenery has never been surpassed, is often to-day badly imitated, and, through Mr. Gordon Craig, has spread to other

countries. French actors of two generations held Irving a master of production.

Irving's astonishing gallery of Shakespearean portraits shows not only the force but the breadth of his imagination. Lear, Coriolanus, Richard III were as much his as Romeo, Iago, Hamlet and Benedick. Hamlet he refused to revive, though many thought it one of his best parts, apparently because he thought only a man below middle age should play it. By the evidence of the older generation, that saw Irving's Hamlet, his was an extremely poetical, romantic conception. Maturity, combined with Irving's physical defects, might clearly shrink from that. "For an actor who can't walk, and can't talk," he said himself, "I've not done so badly." But on all that was majestic, terrifying, pitiful, his flambent imagination fed. No one has ever seen so grand a figure of rebellious despair as Irving's Shylock in his last exit, such heartrending pathos as in his Lear, or so fearful a portrait of guilty death as he drew in *The Bells*.

The theatre was Irving's life. Off the boards, where he was the supreme technical expert, a just but ferocious critic whose bitter tongue never prevented those that felt it from loving, he often wore a mask. Even to children, who adored him, he seemed aloof, though kindness itself. He had simple tastes. He had seen too much, and above all felt too much, to be elated or cast down by a turn of the wheel. How little he thought of worldly possessions can be seen from his reckless beneficence and from his disdainful rejection of the share he was entitled to in the company that took over the Lyceum, because he could not approve its programme.

The last time I saw Irving he was in bed, partially recovering from an attack of what was to be his fatal illness. He was smoking and reading. I was with an elder friend who asked what he thought of most enduring worth in life. Irving answered in nearly the same words he used to Ellen Terry: "A good cigar. Good books. Good friends." His vast fame, almost immeasurable success, ruin or near it, had brought him this philosophy; but no swagger, no bitterness. We may therefore say he was not only a great actor, but a great man.

J.P.

## DANGEROUS LIVING

A SIX-INCH blanket of snow covered the earth. It had fallen three days before and on each successive night there had been a frost. The snow was now hard and brittle like the icing on a cake. The smaller wild creatures could walk safely upon its surface, and even the foxes left but slight trace of their nocturnal wanderings.

Here and there in the large ploughed field the snow had formed small drifts where ridge and furrow met, so that instead of being level the surface was bumpy and uneven. One of these small heaps of drifted snow lay in the centre furrow. At first glance it appeared to be no different from the rest, but a closer examination would have shown that at one end was a small hole where the snow had thawed and then frozen into ice. It would have taken a very close scrutiny indeed to have

disclosed that under that glistening canopy a hare was squatting.

She lay quite motionless, with her black-tipped ears pressed down upon her back. She was quite warm and snug in her little snow-house, for her breath and the heat of her body kept it as warm as toast. She lay here, for it was her regular form or squatting place. The hare has no burrow or shelter; she just squats upon the bare earth, indifferent to the elements; her only protection from her enemies being her speed.

Although she lay so still, her large ears and her sensitive nostrils were bringing her news of all that moved in the field. She could wind the rabbits which hopped and nibbled at the bark of the saplings in the copse. From the road which bordered the field came the taint of man as the postman swung by on his daily round. Even the tiny twitterings of the mice were gathered and noted by those keen ears, and she could hear the sound of the man's steps long after he had disappeared round the bend.

All through the wintry day she lay there, sometimes dozing, but mostly wide awake. The shades of evening were falling when she first winded the fox. He had trotted through the hedge and stood testing the air for anything good to eat. Immediately, he winded the hare. Head up, he crept cautiously forward.

She knew he was coming. Her ears and nose told her that. But there was just a chance that he might miss her. With beating heart she pressed herself closer to the earth and waited. The fox made no mistake. Straight towards the form he trotted until he was but a yard away. The yellow eyes gleamed as he readied himself. Then with effortless grace he sprang.

The hare heard the whisper of his feet on the snow, and as he left the ground she went. Like an arrow she sped through the bolt hole and over the snow towards the hedge. Halfway there she dodged left and slipped under the gate into the road. She ran the road for a hundred yards and then an enormous sideways leap carried her clear into the middle of the hedge. She had not finished yet, for she knew that the fox would not give up the chase easily. She crept along the hedge bank for a few yards, and then another leap carried her on to the ice in the ditch. She ran the ditch to its end, for she knew that the ice would carry no scent. At the ditch's end she ran out into an open meadow. One more six-foot leap carried her well out from the hedge, and she ran to squat in the middle of the field, for she had by now baffled her pursuer.

She rested there for some time, both to regain her composure and her breath, for she had had a bad fright. But it was soon forgotten. Like all animals, the hare lived in the present, and any mishap or narrow escape was forgotten almost as soon as it was over.

By and by she moved off to feed, for the moon was now up. There was a choice stack of turnips she knew of where she was certain of an easy meal. She found the stack in a corner and munched contentedly at the cold, crisp vegetables. She did a surprisingly large amount of damage, for she was not content to stick to one turnip. After one

or two nibbles she moved on and began to chew at another.

For another hour or so she drifted about, gnawing at turnips and then going to chew at the bark on the bases of the young trees. She did not drink, for the dew had not yet fallen, and dew was the only liquid she touched. No other hare came to join her for, save in the breeding season, the hares are an unsociable race and shun the company of others.

After a while she moved off to return to her own field. When she reached her form she squatted down for a short rest. But not for long. A swift patter of feet alarmed her, and she readied herself for flight. The sound drew nearer and a lurcher dog galloped up.

The hare was away in a twinkling. She ran like lightning towards the hedge, but the dog pulled out and turned her. She stopped dead in her tracks and dashed back the way she had come. But the dog knew his job. He, too, was fast and cunning, and the hare soon found that there was only one way of escape, the gate.

At top speed she dashed towards it. Once through, she would show her tormentor a clean pair of heels. Straight at the gate she pelted, and in an instant she was brought up headlong by something which closed all round her and stopped her with a jerk.

A voice spoke, "Quick, don't let her scream." A hand reached down and grasped her. She was pulled out of the net, and a second later she was dead. That's fate!

DAN RUSSELL.



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## Books of The Day

### GREATEST WOMAN SCIENTIST

TO Mme. Curie and her husband, Pierre Curie, belongs the distinction of the joint discovery of radium, but it was undoubtedly the wife who had the first intuition about "a new element endowed with powerful radioactivity" being present in pitch-blende ores. She made what her daughter, Mlle. Eve Curie, in her intimately revealing biography of her mother just published, rightly describes as "the brilliant start" ("Madame Curie," translated by Vincent Sheean, Heinemann, illustrated, 18s.). But no sooner had Mme. Curie formed her first conclusions about this "new element" in pitch-blende than her husband threw up his own researches and joined forces with her in an effort to isolate this element. No collaboration could have been more effective than this partnership founded on ties of love and mutual respect and entirely free from professional jealousy. As the daughter writes, "Let us not attempt to separate these creatures full of love, whose handwriting alternates and combines in the working note-books covered with formulæ, these creatures who were to sign nearly all their scientific publications together." When the partnership was broken through the fatal accident to Pierre Curie in April, 1906, it was left to the widow to carry on their joint work alone and to win fresh laurels for herself as the world's greatest woman scientist. Through the irony of Fate, the radium which she and her husband had discovered was to be the cause of the pernicious anæmia from which she died in July, 1934, a veritable martyr to science with "her rough hands, calloused, deeply burned by radium."

The fascination of this biography lies in the picture it presents of the shy and modest, earnest scientist who found time in all her zealous enthusiasm for laboratory experiments to be an industrious housewife and a devoted wife and mother. For mere wealth neither she nor Pierre Curie had any desire. They were both agreed that they could not make profit by patenting their methods of isolating radium. "Physicists," Marie is represented by her daughter as saying to her husband, "always publish their researches completely. If our discovery has a commercial future, that is an accident by which we must not profit. And radium is going to be of use in treating disease. . . . It seems to me impossible to take advantage of that." To this Pierre replied, "No. It would be contrary to the scientific spirit." And so they published the results of their tremendous discovery as well as the processes of preparation of radium without reserve, giving interested persons all the information they required. Fame brought its trials to both, but especially to the wife.

"Her existence was too crowded for her to squander a single atom of energy uselessly. Carrying the full weight of her work, of her household, of motherhood and teaching all at once, Mme. Curie advanced on her difficult road like an acrobat. Only one more 'part' to play and the equilibrium was gone: she

fell from the tight rope. Wife, mother, scientist, teacher, Marie had not one second of time available for playing the part of the celebrated woman. . . . Day after day she made herself dimmer, more effaced, more anonymous, in order to escape from those who would have dragged her on to the stage, to avoid being the 'star' in whom she could never have recognised herself. For many long years, to unknown persons who came up to her, asking with insistence: 'Aren't you Mme. Curie?' she was to reply, in a neutral voice, dominating a little spasm of fear and condemning herself to impassibility: 'No, you are mistaken.'"

Later in 1911 Marie Curie had another reason for hating fame. It produced a sudden storm of jealousy and calumny which seriously affected her health. "Her origins were basely brought up against her: called in turn a Russian, a German, a Jewess and a Pole, she was the 'foreign woman' who had come to Paris like a usurper to conquer a high position improperly." But this phase was to pass in the ever-increasing honours that were to be paid to her work in France and abroad. Yet even to the end, Marie "did not succeed in making her pact with fame. She could never approve of the evidences of what she called 'fetishism.'" "In science," she always contended, "we must be interested in things, not in persons." And if she allowed her own prestige to honour and enrich science, that was only because the cause was so dear to her. For the rest,

"One picture, always the same, dominates the memory of these fêtes and processions for me: the bloodless, expressionless, almost indifferent face of my mother. . . . Nothing in her had changed: neither the physical fear of crowds nor the timidity which froze her hands and dried her throat, nor, above all, her incurable inaptitude for vanity."

From year to year she enriched her laboratory and used her fame to obtain exceptional credits for research, but, loving mother though she was, she never had any thought of laying up a fortune for her children.

"On several occasions Marie had the opportunity of assuring a great fortune to Irene and Eve. She did not do so. When she became a widow she had to decide what to do with the gramme of radium that she and Pierre had prepared with their own hands which was her private property. Against the advice of Dr. Curie (her father-in-law) and of several members of the family council, she decided, sharing the views of him who was no more, to make to her laboratory a gift of this precious particle, which was worth more than a million gold francs. In her mind, if it was inconvenient to be poor, it was superfluous and shocking to be very rich. The necessity for her daughters to earn their living later on seemed healthy and natural to her."

Mlle. Curie gives an entertaining account of her mother's methods of educating her children. She wished to protect them from overwork, she did not wish them to be too sensitive like herself, she wanted them to be hardy and have all the benefit of as much fresh air as possible, she taught them to be independent at an early age, and she evolved the idea for them of minimum study and the maximum amount of learning to be extracted from it. For this purpose she induced her fellow professors at the Sorbonne to adopt the plan of "collective teaching." Under this plan each professorial parent taught the ten children included in the plan his or her own special subject one morning or afternoon each week, Mme. Curie herself devoting Thursday afternoons to an elementary course in physics. For two years the experiment



lasted, and then it had to be given up because the parents found the business of teaching the small children too much for them! After this, Mme. Curie sent her girls to a small private educational establishment where the classroom hours were strictly limited. Summing up the results of her mother's educational methods, Mlle. Curie writes:

"Were Marie's touching efforts to protect her daughters' personalities from their earliest childhood successful? Yes and no. 'Collective teaching' gave the elder girl, in default of a complete literary equipment, a first-class scientific education which she could not have obtained in any secondary school. Spiritual education? . . . Several things were permanently imprinted upon us: the taste for work—a thousand times more victorious in my sister than in me—a certain indifference towards money, and an instinct of independence which convinced us both that in any combination of circumstances we should know how to get along without help. . . In one single sector Marie's victory was complete: her daughters owe to her their good health and their physical address, their love of sports. . . Like a great many children, we were probably selfish and inattentive to shades of feeling. Just the same we perceived the charm, the restrained tenderness and the hidden grace of her whom we called—in the first line of our letters spotted with ink, stupid little letters which, tied with confectioners' ribbons, Marie kept until her death—'Darling Mé,' 'My Sweet Darling,' 'My Sweet' or else, most often, 'Sweet Mé.'"

### THE REAL POTEMKIN

Certain old legends are difficult to kill, and the modern Russian flair for eyewash has not unnaturally perhaps helped to give fresh currency to the old familiar tale about the "cardboard villages" Potemkin is supposed to have set up in the Crimea for the edification of his Sovereign Catherine the Great. Mr. George Soloveytkhik in his lively and well-documented biography of this Russian statesman—curiously enough the first "full Potemkin biography" that has ever appeared—shows that there is not the slightest foundation for this oft-repeated story ("Potemkin: A Picture of Catherine's Russia," with maps and illustrations, Thornton Butterworth, 18s.). And as the result of considerable research—in Paris, London, Stockholm, in Poland, the Baltic countries and Finland, since the libraries and archives of Russia were closed to him—he has been able to give us both a clear and convincing account of Potemkin's many notable achievements and an admirable study of the man himself in his proper environment. For a Russian-born writer, Mr. Soloveytkhik's command of the English language and idiom is impressive, and apart from the scholarship and sound judgment he has brought to the writing of this biography, his book is particularly easy and delightful to read because of its author's eye for picturesque detail and humorous anecdote. He makes no attempt to hide Potemkin's faults, his callousness and his profligate extravagancies, but he rightly insists that they must be judged by the standards of the age and the semi-Oriental civilisation of Catherine's Russia. But he also presents to us the other side of the man: the practical statesman, administrator and soldier who did much to raise the prestige of his country and of his Sovereign, and the visionary who dreamt his dreams of expelling the Turk from Europe, extending Russia's dominions to Constantinople and the

Straits and even transplanting the Jews in Russia back to Palestine "to which, in his opinion, they were fully entitled." Potemkin did not succeed in expelling the Turk, but, as his biographer says, he "can claim credit for the fact that, for the first time in history, the whole of the northern shore of the Black Sea became an integral part of the Russian Empire." He was responsible for founding Sebastopol, Nicolaiev and Ekaterinoslav and it was he, too, who created Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

Mr. Soloveytkhik tells us of Potemkin's enthusiastic support of the British Government's proposals for an Anglo-Russian alliance in 1780 when Minorca (once more since 1763 a British possession) was held out as a bait to Catherine for assistance against France, Spain and the revolted American colonies. This is one of the strangest episodes in our diplomatic history and provokes Mr. Soloveytkhik, after dealing with it comprehensively, to the intriguing speculation "how the existence of a Russian colony and naval base in the Balearic Isles would have affected the present Spanish Civil War." But the most surprising revelation Mr. Soloveytkhik has to make about Potemkin's career is that he was secretly married to the Empress Catherine. The marriage, we are told, took place in 1774, in a Church in an unfashionable quarter of St. Petersburg. Of the two copies of the marriage certificate, one is said to have been placed in the coffin of one of the witnesses to the ceremony when he died, the other being "handed down in the Volkonsky family." For this Mr. Soloveytkhik cites the authority of a well-known Soviet historian, and as further proof of the truth of the story he quotes the frequent use by Catherine in her correspondence with Potemkin of the expressions "dear husband," "tender spouse" and "Your devoted wife," a significant passage in one of the Comte de Ségur's despatches referring to "a great mystery" that would account for Potemkin's unusual position in the Russian Court and the hint thrown out by the Emperor Joseph II of Austria, in conversation with the British Ambassador in 1782, to the effect that "the Empress of Russia does not wish to part with him (Potemkin) and from a thousand reasons, and as many connections of every sort, she could not easily get rid of him, even if she harboured the wish of doing so." Mr. Soloveytkhik has certainly made out a strong presumptive case for the marriage, but till one of the two certificates is found and proved to be a genuine document, there must still remain an element of doubt as to the marriage ever having taken place.

### PSYCHOLOGIST'S SELF-REVELATIONS

Dr. Harold Dearden is a psychologist and a literary artist of no little repute and both sides of him have had their share in writing his interesting, but almost frighteningly frank book, "The Wind of Circumstance" (Heinemann, 12s. 6d.). The psychologist in him does not shrink from exposing the most secret places in his heart; the literary artist ensures that the operation shall be conducted in such a way that the reader shall be fascinated and carried forward breathlessly from page to page.

It is not exactly an autobiography. As the author explains, "any resemblance it may have to an autobiography is purely accidental." In his practice as a psychologist what has interested him most has been the "freakishness" of human destinies, and so "thinking in this way of how much these odd experiences had done for me, I could not resist the idea that even a bare account of them might do something of the same sort for others. And that assumption is at once the motive and sole justification for this book." What Dr. Dearden in fact does is to reveal himself and his heart to his reader at various stages of his life and in a variety of episodes. We see him as a child and note his impressions of his parents; we follow him to school and then to Cambridge and the London Hospital; there is the episode of a romantic attachment while he is linked up with a troupe in a travelling fair; and finally, there is another romantic episode leading to marriage and ending with the tragic death of his wife. "Give me," says Dr. Dearden, "free access to the recesses of a patient's mind; let me, in fact, know as much about him as I know about myself and I shall feel good confidence in giving value for my fee." In this book he demonstrates how this free access to the mind's recesses can be accorded, and his readers will agree that they get rather exceptional value for the price charged for this psychological demonstration.

#### A SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE

Africa, India, the Himalayas and Central Asia are usually the scene of most big game narratives,

but a book by Major Nevill Armstrong ("After Big Game in the Yukon," John Long, illustrated, 18s.) reminds us that there is another part of the world which has undoubted claims to be regarded as a veritable big and small game hunter's Paradise. Major Armstrong has had thirty years' experience of the country of the Upper Macmillan River of which he has been the Game Warden and he gives it as his firm conviction that it is the best hunting ground of its kind remaining in the world. "On unvisited mountain-sides the giant moose browses, on the barrens the caribou abounds, sheep graze in remote gulches and often through the trees the deadly grizzly ambles. Wolves roam the country in large bands during the winter, but they are not dangerous. Lakes of all sizes are numerous, each one containing a plentiful supply of fish. . . Fur-bearing animals are many: marten, mink, beaver, lynx, wolverine, otter, musk rats, ermine, fox. Thousands of geese and ducks nest along the river flats, willow-covered islands, ponds and lakes. The Arctic hare, ptarmigan, grouse, are found every year." His book contains an account of three big game trips in this region, prefaced by three introductory chapters describing the country generally and its wild life and telling the reader something of the trapper's life in the Sub-Arctic. We are told of one amazing catch of furs on the Alaskan Arctic coast resulting from a large whale having been washed ashore dead and attracting white foxes for miles around. Two Swedish trappers, who happened to be on the spot, succeeded in trapping and trading no less than nine hundred white fox pelts for which they netted "the colossal sum" of \$27,000. The bighorn sheep of the Rockies have evidently first place in Major Armstrong's sporting heart, for he gives one chapter to "Sheep: the finest sport in the world." The shikar-enthusiast will find much to hold him enthralled in the exciting stalks and hunting adventures chronicled by Major Armstrong, while those who may be tempted to visit the sportsman's Paradise whose delights he depicts will discover in the appendices at the end of the book some very useful hints.

#### NEW NOVELS

Gunnar Gunnarson is an Icelandic writer who has earned a considerable reputation for himself in Scandinavia and Germany. "Ships in the Sky" (Jarrolds, translated by Evelyn Ramsden, 8s. 6d.) is the first part of a cycle "The Church on the Hill." It is the story of a small Icelandic boy's childhood and it is most naturally and charmingly told: the Icelandic scenes and characters are made so real to the reader that he begins to feel himself part of the tale. Perhaps this is because the novel is partly autobiographical. Of all the characters in this book none is more delightfully and skilfully drawn than old Begga, the cook, who to the childish mind appears as two different persons, one the hard worker of weekdays, the "tousled and sooty" Begga with running eyes, who could tell wonderful fairy tales, the other the very stately Begga of Sundays, bending over her book of sermons and intent on religion. Then there is the mother, the pivot of the home, whose presence unites and inspires the whole household; the kindly

*A new murder book by*

## WARNER ALLEN

*Times Literary Supplement:* "The name of the author will at once tell the reader what to expect—in short, a book full of wit, rich in incidents and ingenious in design.

"Mr. Warner Allen has chosen for his background the home and political life of Roger d'Arblay, bitter opponent of the French premier, Allard. Public and private intrigues lead to a series of tragedies.

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**"DEATH FUNGUS"**

*Constable*



gentle farm hand Nonni; Bjorni, the smith, who puzzles but fascinates the child with his nonsense; Sigga Mens, the maid, who frightens yet at the same time attracts him with her "fantastic, carefully described horrors"; his clergyman uncle, his grandfather, his little cousins—in fact the whole world of the child so delicately, yet realistically pictured for us, just as if we were seeing it through the child's eyes.

Mr. Eden Phillpotts has given us another splendid Devonshire tale—one of the best he has written—in "Dark Horses" (Murray). The scene is the village of Merton Magna and the central characters are the local wheelwright, his wise old gypsy mother and his daughter who has an unfortunate love affair. But round these characters the whole village life flows and, not content with presenting his readers with a rich and varied gallery of portraits, Mr. Phillpotts, with fine dramatic artistry, proceeds to give his story at the end a wholly unexpected turn.

Secret Service fiction usually provides us with heroes of tremendous courage and resource. Mr. Vincent Buchanan has discovered a rather different kind of hero for his very entertaining story "One Is Plenty" (Hurst & Blackett): a not particularly brainy, though very likeable young soldier who somehow in making a mess of the business in which he involves himself manages to get quite surprising results. Incidentally, too, he manages to involve himself in romantic complications, which are happily smoothed out for him by the kindness of Fortune. His adventures make very good reading.

Mr. Victor Bridges gives us lively and amusing dialogue and plenty of excitement in his story of a murder that is at first taken for an accident ("It Happened in Essex," Hodder & Stoughton). The author also knows how to interest his readers in his characters and to make his plot convincing.

Those who have met Mr. David Frome's timidly romantic hero Mr. Evan Pinkerton before will not need to be told that he has a genius for getting into trouble and also for being the means of unravelling crime mysteries. In "The Guilt is Plain" (Longmans) he goes holidaying to Brighton only to encounter a corpse in the Pavilion and become involved in a series of thrilling experiences. His old friend Inspector Bull happily arrives on the scene to help him, but even so he narrowly escapes death—having made his own brilliant deductions which, though not quite right, are near enough to the truth to make the criminal look upon him as an enemy to be eliminated. This is certainly one of the best of the Pinkerton tales.

#### PUBLISHERS' PLANS

There is not likely to be a livelier or more important book of military reminiscences than General Sir Tom Bridges' "Alarms and Excursions," which Longmans are shortly to publish. No general officer had a more varied record than Sir Tom in the Great War. His last important public service was his highly successful tenure of the Governorship of South Australia.

Dr. F. D. Ommanney's "South Latitude" is due to come from Longmans in March. Dr.

Ommanney was on board the *Discovery II* when she went to the rescue of Lincoln Ellsworth, the American aviator, and he was one of a party of six stranded on the remote King George island.

Mr. J. Q. Henriques is a member of the Unemployment Assistance Board of the Committee for Central London and Chairman of its Welfare sub-committee and a member of the Executive of the London Committee for voluntary Occupation during Unemployment. In "A Citizen's Guide to Social Service," coming from Allen & Unwin, on February 22nd, he explains the laws and regulations which govern the social services and the principles affecting co-operation between public and voluntary agencies.

#### OTHER NEW BOOKS

"Beloved Marian: The Social History of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hastings," by K. L. Murray (Jarrolds, 12s. 6d., illustrated).

"Pacific Scene," by Harry F. Greenwall (Nicholson & Watson, 8s. 6d.).

"Racine," by Jean Girardoux, translated by P. Mansell Jones (Gordon Fraser, Cambridge, 3s. 6d.).

"World Birth," by Shaw Desmond (Methuen, 8s. 6d.).

"Smugglers of To-day," by William T. Makin (Jenkins, 12s. 6d.).

"Thoughts and Talks: The Diary of a Member of Parliament, 1935-37," by Sir Arnold Wilson (Longmans, 12s. 6d.).

#### NOVELS

"Within A Dream," by Barbara Goolden, (Methuen).

"The Charmed Life," by Jack B. Yeats (Routledge).

"A Desperate Remedy," by Ben Bolt (Ward, Lock).

### RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

In recent years an increasing body of medical opinion has turned to the support of a particular remedy for Rheumatoid Arthritis and allied ills. This remedy, which is known as "Curicones," has been strikingly successful in a large number of varied Rheumatic and Arthritic cases.

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## Round the Empire

### CHANGING THE FACE OF CANADA'S PRAIRIES

AMONG MANY measures taken by the Canadian authorities to combat dry conditions in the Prairies, tree planting has ranked among the more important. This development, however, is not a new one. Tree planting on the Canadian Prairies has been fostered by the Dominion Government since the beginning of the present century, and during this period over 145,000,000 tree seedlings have been distributed to Western farmers. Colossal though this number may be, however, the distribution is to be planned on a still more intensive scale, and it is a possibility of the not distant future that the treeless plains and the monotonous landscapes of the Prairies will become a memory of things that are gone. It is not for artistic reasons alone that more attention is being paid to Prairie forestry; the matter has now become an economic factor of paramount importance. During 1937 alone over two million trees were sent out, and the subject of tree culture has become a topic of conversation and interest in many a prairie home where previously tree planting was considered a "fad."

Early settlers in the Canadian West who came from countries where trees were common, tried to improve the appearance of their new homes by tree planting. Many imported their trees from the East, "stuck" them in the ground and left them to grow as is done in Eastern Canada or in the Old Country. But trees on the prairie need careful cultivation and attention, and the inevitable result of these early ventures was failure and disappointment. Not knowing the real cause of their failure, these pioneers blamed the country and the climatic conditions, and the idea became general that it was not possible to grow trees on the hitherto bald prairie. Although certain portions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are naturally timbered, the larger part of the settled area in the Prairie Provinces is practically treeless. It is impossible to say what the exact causes are which, operating for centuries, have produced this result, but it is generally thought by those who have given some attention to the subject that a large part of what is now prairie was not originally so; in fact, there is direct evidence to show that some districts at least that are now treeless were originally well timbered. Undoubtedly the chief agency which, little by little, caused the prairies to encroach on the timbered area was the frequently recurring prairie fire. It is well known to those familiar with the country that where fires are kept out of a district for a number of years, small bluffs of poplar spring up all around the sloughs and low places which, if not disturbed, gradually extend till eventually a formerly treeless district becomes well timbered. It would thus seem that had fires not been so prevalent in the past, the timbered areas would be much more extensive than they are at present. The fact still remains, however, that there are immense tracts of

land absolutely treeless which could be utilised to the fullest advantage only after a certain measure of protection is afforded by the presence of belts or plantations of trees.

The value of these tree belts to the prairie farmer is manifold. They afford shelter from the wind to crops, buildings and stock. They collect and hold the snow during winter, and this snow, melting in the spring, furnishes a great deal of moisture to the land in the immediate vicinity which otherwise it would not retain. They also preserve the moisture in the soil by breaking the force of hot winds in the summer, retarding evaporation and soil drifting. They provide a fuel supply, fencing material, wood for repairs, and there is not the slightest doubt that a farm which has on it a well managed and productive wood lot will sell for far more than one without trees. Last, but not least, there is the question of beautifying the landscape and making life on the prairie much more pleasant and less monotonous. To one who has lived where trees flourish, a real home could never be complete without their presence.

The most suitable species among the broad-leaved trees so far tried out include the caragana, which is a particularly hardy tree and, given half a chance, will grow almost anywhere on the prairies. It makes an excellent hedge, standing trimming well, and can be kept at any height between five and fifteen feet. It grows very rapidly and branches out close to the ground. This tree is generally used as a "starter" for shelter belts, and once it has got itself established, other of the more ornamental and valuable species, such as green ash, white elm, paper birch and Manitoba maple, may be added successfully. Willows and cottonwood thrive best where there is adequate moisture. Russian poplar, like caragana, is an exceptionally hardy tree and will probably produce more fuel wood in a shorter time than any other species of tree which can be grown on the prairies, but it has certain defects and is not always recommended where better kinds of trees can be grown successfully. Then, of course, there are the conifers like the white spruce, black spruce, jack pine, lodgepole pine, tamarack or American larch, and Douglas fir. Besides these natives, the Scotch pine and European larch have been found to be quite hardy and flourish in suitable localities.

The many shelter belts seen around prairie homes are ample proof that good use can be made of trees, and the Western farmer is no longer confined to a limited selection from a few species. Sylvicultural research at the Dominion Experimental Stations is proceeding apace with the object of perfecting more and more suitable trees which may be incorporated in a design for changing the face of the prairies.

#### NEW RADIUM RECORDS

This year no less than nine grammes of radium will be produced each month from the great deposits of the Great Bear Lake in the North West Territories of Canada. It is only a few years ago that production was commenced on a commercial scale, but upon the task there has been concentrated all facilities that science and transport can evolve. Leading mineralogists, expert mining engineers,

intrepid airmen—all have played their part. Activity centres in what is appropriately known as Eldorado, where the mines have been electrified and the latest machinery installed, while the refinery further south, at Port Hope in Ontario, has doubled its capacity. The Uranium products of the mine provide another source of wealth for Canada, for they are widely used in ceramic and other industries, and there is now a record demand for them.

Great difficulties had to be overcome in ensuring a supply of fuel oil, but this has now been achieved by tapping what is known as the Norman oil field, from which an eight-and-a-half mile pipe line has been built to overcome the navigation difficulties on the Great Bear River. At the point where the rapids make transport on the river impossible, the oil is transferred from tanker barges to a storage tank; from there the oil is pumped through the pipe line to another storage tank at Fort Franklin, and from there is carried by barges to the Eldorado Mine, 225 miles across the lake. Such is a typical instance of the remarkable efforts which are now giving more and more radium to the world.

### THE PERFECT EGG

The second consignment of experimental fresh eggs from Canada has arrived in this country and is now being sampled by the experts. The first reached selected British tables some three weeks ago, and were pronounced perfect, and it seems that the second consignment is well up to that high standard.

It is, indeed, Canada's aim to produce for the British market the perfect egg. Scientists, farmers, packers and shippers combined under Governmental inspiration some time ago to embark upon the enterprise. The hundreds of dozens of fresh eggs which are now being quietly shipped to London may claim to be the most closely-watched agricultural products to reach this country for many years. Some experts think they are so perfect that they do not require salt.

The objective is not to diminish in any way the market for British eggs, but rather to supplement the British supplies with eggs of even higher quality than those now being imported from elsewhere.

### ENTER THE BEAVER

The lion and the unicorn are not having it all their own way in the matter of heraldry. The Beaver has now joined the party, and in a very honoured place. As the emblem of Canada, it has been selected to hold a distinctive place of honour in the arch in front of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill. It is accompanied by nine offspring representing the nine Provinces of the Dominion. Maple leaves form the background for the shields of the Provinces which mark the keystone of the archway, while on either side stand the lion and the unicorn. The Beaver is also ensconced on the stone panel below Canada's coat of arms over the two doors leading to the House of Commons.

### AUSTRALIA'S UNKNOWN NORTH

Only 11,000 square miles of a total of 312,000 square miles of country in Arnhem Land, the

northernmost part of Australia's Northern Territory, have hitherto been surveyed or explored. This fact is brought to light, says the *Australasian* because the Administrator of Northern Australia (Mr. C. L. A. Abbott) has recommended to the Federal Ministry that funds be made available next year for a comprehensive and complete survey of the entire country. "If the recommendation is adopted the work of surveying this immense area will occupy several years, but Mr. Abbott has been advised by the Survey Department that a preliminary survey of this unknown part of Australia could be made in 12 months. It is suggested that three or four parties be sent into the Arnhem Land aboriginal reserve. These parties would have to be heavily armed owing to the probability of encountering hostile blacks. They would have to live on the country for game and meat for provisions.

"An assistant surveyor of the Administration (Mr. H. Kirkpatrick) carried out an extensive survey of a section of territory on horseback in 1915, and much of the area was also covered by Mr. A. McAlister Blain in 1934. The southern portion of Arnhem Land was surveyed by Mr. David Lindsay, a well-known figure in the north, whose surveys extended from 1878 to 1920. Mr. Arthur Brockman, a West Australian, surveyed portions of the south-west, and later an exploration trip was made by a Queenslander, Mr. C. C. Boulter. In 1934 a romantic figure named Broomfield walked from the Phelp River to the Milingimbi mission station and the Crocodile Islands. Dr. Thomson, in the course of his anthropological work,

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covered portion of the north-east and the Gulf country."

### SWAZILAND'S FUTURE

"Swaziland may be within the Union in the next 12 months and possibly in a shorter period." This is the personal opinion of Col. W. R. Collins, M.P. for the South African constituency of Ermelo, and chief Union Government whip, speaking at a meeting at Davel, South Africa, recently. He said there were big things going to happen. It was his private belief that Swaziland would form part of the Union in the near future, possibly within a year and perhaps even sooner. Ermelo would figure largely as a connecting link with the new territory that would be embodied in the Union, and he was particularly anxious to be able to share, as Ermelo's parliamentary representative, in the discussion of the conditions on which Swaziland would join the Union.

### NATIVE WORKERS' FREE BUS RIDES

As soon as the summer rains are over—usually about the end of March—the Government of Southern Rhodesia intends to run free 'bus services for natives entering the Colony in search of work from Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and the northern parts of Portuguese East Africa. There are at present rest houses, ferries and free food depots along the long roads by which these voluntary migrants hike, but as they waste many unprofitable weeks on the journey and are apt to arrive tired, the new system is likely to be greatly to their advantage and to that of their employers as well. The scheme is in accordance with the principles agreed to in the International Labour Convention signed at Geneva on the transport of Migrant Labour. An officer of the Nyasaland Government has been appointed to Southern Rhodesia where his duties are to advise both Governments on problems of Nyasaland labour and to act as a kind of Consul for Nyasaland natives.

### INDIAN VILLAGE UPLIFT

The Congress Government in the United Provinces launched their village uplift plan last month. Called the Five-year Plan of Rural Reconstruction, it aims at the economic rehabilitation of one hundred thousand villages in the province. The details have been worked out over a period of several months and the huge machinery was set in motion on the appointed day by 1,200 field workers specially trained for the task at Government training camps. Simplicity is the keynote of the scheme. The work in the hundred thousand villages is being supervised from 48 district headquarters to which 48 inspectors have been appointed. In addition there are ten divisional superintendents, with a Rural Development Commissioner at their head. The field workers, each of whom receives a salary of Rs. 20 and a travelling allowance of Rs. 5, are entrusted with the task of organising village *panchayats*, encouraging cottage industries, opening libraries and reading rooms, promoting games and, in general, making the village a better and cleaner place to live in. The entire movement is being financed out of current budget allotments, each district receiving Rs. 10,000.

### ELECTORAL LAW DEFECTS

The India mail papers contain full reports of the judgment of the Bengal Tribunal appointed to investigate the charges of improper conduct at the last general election brought against Nawab Sir K. G. M. Farouqui. Some of the charges failed, but the Nawab was found guilty of corrupt practices under others and is therefore disqualified from standing for election to any provincial legislature as well as from voting at any election for six years. The Nawab at the time of the election was a Minister with a good record of achievement to his credit and was seemingly well set for a notable political career. Part of the case against him was that the Nawab used his power as a Minister, as well as officials employed in departments under his control, to further his interests in the election campaign. And on this point the Tribunal draws attention to what it regards as a defect of the law. It observes: "The law as it stands appears to impose no penalty or disqualification upon a Minister who abuses his position by demanding or accepting from officials services in furtherance of his private interests in an election campaign. We regard this defect in the law as an anomaly which is likely to lead to a gross and dangerous form of corruption in public life, and we think it is a matter of importance that the Government should take steps to prevent the recurrence of conduct on the part of Ministers and officials in connection with elections similar to that which has come to light in this case."

### INDIA'S FEDERAL COURT

How soon will India's Federal Court begin to have cases for adjudication? To this question, persistently asked, the reply seems to be that for some time to come the Court is unlikely to have before it any cases of the type to which its powers relate.

In its original jurisdiction, it has to adjudicate upon any dispute between any two or more of the following parties—the Federation or any of the Provinces. The Act came into operation in April last and, so far as is known, no dispute has arisen between the Provinces or between a Province and the Centre. If there have been no such disputes, it stands to reason that the Federal Court will have no work in its original jurisdiction.

With regard to its appellate jurisdiction, an appeal will lie from any judgment, decree or final order of a High Court in British India, if the High Court certifies that the case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution Act or any Order in Council made thereunder. Before an appeal comes to the Federal Court, the case has to be finally disposed of in a High Court. If the case starts in the lower court and comes up in appeal to the High Court, the normal time taken is more than a year. Besides, it is not every case which is appealable to the Federal Court. The case must involve a constitutional issue. Ordinarily, few cases do involve constitutional issues. It is not known whether any such cases have been disposed of or are pending in any High Court. In its appellate jurisdiction, therefore, the Federal Court was not likely to have

any work on its reopening after the Christmas recess, so far as is at present known.

The advisory jurisdiction comes to be exercised when the Governor-General has referred to the Federal Court a question of law which is of such a nature and of such public importance that in the Governor-General's opinion it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Federal Court upon it. Whether any such question of law has arisen or not is not known. Until the Governor-General makes a reference, the Court will have no work in its advisory jurisdiction.

It does not follow, however, that the Judges will be sitting idle. They have promulgated certain rules which need considerable amplification, and the Judges may very well employ their time in working out the details of these rules. Before the Christmas recess the Judges met almost daily and got through a considerable amount of work in connection with these rules. Some of these rules require the co-operation of High Courts. It is understood that the Federal Court is in correspondence with the High Courts relating to these matters.

### INDO-BURMAN RELATIONS

Speaking at a Burma-Indian Conference at Rangoon recently, Mr. R. G. Iyengar, who is president of the Burma-Indian Association and Deputy-Leader of the India Parliamentary Group in the House of Representatives in Burma, complained that some of the Bills introduced in the Burma Legislature were plainly directed against Indian interests in Burma, while others, in the guise of safeguarding certain members of the Burmese community, directly affected non-Burmans in Burma, and Indians in particular. Mr. Iyengar concluded: "There are other matters equally important, such as the employment of Indians in the public services and on the Public Service Commission; the appointment of Indian judges in the High Court; the education of Indian children in Burma; and the proposal to amend the Rangoon Municipal Act. These are questions which vitally affect our community."

"The day our sectional tendencies grow and assume form, it will cry the doom and seal the fate of Indians in Burma," observed Mr. S. A. Tyabji, president of the conference, in delivering his address. He urged Indians to "stand shoulder to shoulder to brave the storm." Referring to the composition of the Cabinet, he said: "The Indian community and other minorities undoubtedly would have felt satisfaction had one of the minority groups received the confidence of the Premier and had been given a place in the Ministry. It would have made them feel that they had a niche in Burma and that the minorities were not looked upon with suspicion."

The Calcutta *Statesman* expresses satisfaction over the news that the Burma Government are opposed to the idea of levying a duty on rice exports to India. Burma, which is the largest rice-exporting country in the world (the commodity forming over 40 per cent. of the total value of the country's exports), has in recent years been forced to look more and more to the British Empire for

markets for her rice crop. This has been due to two main causes—increasing competition from Egypt, Italy, Spain and Japan, and the modern tendency to regulate international trade by bilateral agreements, tariffs and quotas. The Indian market, however, the *Statesman* points out, continues to be Burma's best customer in the rice trade. The annual value of Burma's exports of rice to India is nearly Rs. 13 crores. On the other hand, Indian exports of merchandise to Burma reveal an encouraging annual increase. "It is evident therefore that a duty on Burma rice exports to India, which might have resulted in retaliatory action by India, would not have been in the best interests of either country."

### CEYLON'S "CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY"

With constitutional changes for Ceylon in the air, an attempt is being made in the island to form what is to be known as "The Constitutional Party," with a view to securing (a) that the views of representative men of all communities and interests shall have a due share in influencing public measures generally; (b) that the ordered progress of the country shall proceed on the basis of gradual advancement of the lot of the poorer classes; and (c) that these sections of the community shall have disinterested guidance for the intelligent exercise of their political power whenever the occasion arises. Mr. G. A. Wille, who is taking the initiative in the movement, in a letter to the *Ceylon Observer*, says: "Many men are now keeping out of politics, especially so far as entering the State Council goes, as they consider that under present conditions there is no chance of their doing so. Many also who are otherwise interested in the country's welfare recognise this as a calamity, as politics have now assumed a more serious aspect than ever before. But it is obviously good neither for either of these classes and those they represent nor for the country that their influence in public affairs should be nil. Except as regards the Public Services and subject to constitutional safeguards (naturally, rarely exercised), the State Council practically has unlimited power. At the same time much remains to be done both as regards improving the condition of the people and helping them to a proper exercise of the franchise, a weapon purposely placed in their hands for bringing pressure to bear on their representatives in Council."

"It is as a step against the coming of a system of Cabinet Government now pressed for, whether it comes soon or late, apart from other public benefits it is bound to confer, that the founding of 'The Constitutional Party' is suggested. Both political and social tendencies at work amongst us make the name appropriate, but that is a detail. While the bulk of the members forming the Party would no doubt be those outside Government service, there are a large number of retired Government servants with time on their hands, who could hardly put their brains and their administrative experience to better use than by joining the movement and contributing to the political progress of the country, at a critical stage in its development, on sound lines."

## Letters to the Editor

### AIR FORCE PILOTS

Sir,—The letter from Admiral Sir Mark Kerr in your last issue must command very general support. The British public will certainly do its part in assisting the Air Ministry, always provided that authority does its part in revealing what is needed and in providing the necessary facilities.

If the Government gave opportunities of free training as pilots to young men wishing to learn to fly, we should probably soon have the trained civilian force of 50,000 men that Mr. W. R. Chown, of the Northern School of Aviation in Manchester, visualises.

SAM TOMLINSON.

Reading.

### THE TRINIDAD REPORT

Sir,—Your comments on the Trinidad Commission's report are very much to the point.

One wonders what would have happened had the same sentiments been expressed by the Hunter Committee, which "investigated" the Amritsar affair many months after the occurrence and proceeded to condemn General Dyer for action that immediately stopped the Amritsar revolt and prevented disorder from spreading through the Punjab!

—Would we have been saved the very unedifying

debate that followed in the Commons? I think not. British Governments and Parliament have never displayed much liking for those who act promptly in emergencies.

The way of conciliation is usually therefore the safest course for local authority to pursue. It may lead to disorders and bloodshed, but it can only be sheer bad luck if subsequent enquiry produces a verdict of such practical sound sense as that of this Trinidad Commission. In this case the former Governor of Trinidad must be accounted extraordinarily unlucky.

A.R.C.P.

Richmond.

### FOOTBALL POOLS

Sir,—From articles appearing in the daily Press, it would appear that something like £40,000,000 a year is being contributed by the public to Football Pools, a form of gambling in which luck is mildly tempered with a modicum of skill. It has long been shown that the suppression of gambling is impossible. Is it not time that the State should make its profit from this amiable weakness just as it does from the consumption of tobacco and alcohol and divert the gigantic profits of the existing system to the national revenue from the pockets of individuals who really do not seem to be rendering any particular service to their country.

THEOPHILUS LAMB.

Petersfield, Hants.

### A PROHIBITION PROBLEM

Sir,—The champion of temperance is very hard to convince and I am not so optimistic as to think that I myself can do anything to prove to him that prohibition measures are never likely to succeed in any country that they may be tried.

But perhaps some of your readers will be interested to read the following story which I cull with a few minor changes from the columns of the *Calcutta Statesman*.

Some months ago an Indian provincial Government caused some amusement to the Indian Press and its readers by linking Europeans and aborigines as the only classes to be exempt from prohibition. The case for the European was that he comes from a cold region where the consumption of liquor is not only conventional but may be necessary. The ground for leaving the aborigines their toddy may be inferred from an illuminating report by the Bombay Excise Administration. In some tracts attempts to enforce restrictive measures resulted in the harassment of the poor, who paid their fines by increasing illicit distillation from *mhowra* flowers; and in confronting the Excise Department with the united opposition of the countryside and an almost complete administrative breakdown, because sometimes in compromise was "the only alternative to ignominious retreat." Government therefore reduced the cost of licit liquor, recognising "the plain fact" that until the tribes are freed from their determination to drink and until the abundant *mhowra* flowers are otherwise utilised, illicit liquor must be provided at a reasonable cost.

CHOTA PEG,

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**ROSSALL SCHOOL.**—An Examination will be held on May 24th, 1938, and the following days, for the purpose of electing ten Open Scholars and Exhibitioners, who will enter the School in the Michaelmas Term. The two best Scholarships will be of value £100 and £80 per annum, and two others will be of value £60 per annum. The remainder will be awarded on the merit of the successful candidates. School Fees (inclusive of all normal charges) are £145 per annum (sons of Clergy £100 per annum; sons of Officers in the Regular Services £135 per annum). Candidates must be between the ages of 12½ and 14 on June 1st, 1938.

Further information can be obtained on application to The Headmaster, Rossall School, Fleetwood, Lancashire.

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## Your Investments

### CONFIDENCE AND CAPITAL VALUES

INVESTORS must be puzzled and not a little aggrieved that values of their stocks and shares, except those in Trustee issues, continue to shrink at an alarming pace. Leading Industrial companies are reporting record profits for 1937, and though admittedly trade in this country is not quite at last year's high rate there is no sign of any such recession as is suggested by the declines in perfectly reputable stocks and shares. Employment figures still show an advance of 87,000 on a year ago.

The whole explanation is lack of confidence. It is confidence which brings capital to the Stock Markets and forces up prices of stocks and shares. The same quality is responsible for formation of new companies to exploit new enterprises and responsible also for a high rate of employment and wages and general industrial peace and prosperity. A year ago, confidence in this country's future was superabundant, and Stock Markets duly responded. Business in all sections of home industry reached a new peak, and profits now being declared by industrial companies are testimony to the high level of activity attained.

There followed the need for expanding this field of industrial activity beyond our own shores. But confidence was lacking.

#### GILT-EDGED "UNHEALTHINESS"

Each week seems to bring some new shock to Stock Markets and tends to force investment funds of all kinds into "safety-first" stocks. Hence the condition of unhealthiness which produces applications for £58,000,000 for a £2,000,000 Bristol loan in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. stock at the high price of 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ . A considerable portion of these funds would be better employed earning a full 5 per cent. in some industrial enterprise.

#### SOUTHERN RAILWAY SURPRISE

In the meantime, those "Bears" in the Home Railway market who have been making the most of the boggy of rising costs have received a shock which would have produced a still greater effect had markets not been so cheerless. The most optimistic dividend estimates were surpassed by the Southern declaration of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the deferred stock, the highest payment since 1929. Only  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was paid last year. Net revenue shows an increase of £325,000, of which £210,000 was secured in the first half of the year, gross revenue being £1,312,000 higher. Southern deferred stock promptly rose to 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ , at which price

the yield is almost 7 per cent. The preferred ordinary stock again receives its full 5 per cent., and at 84 $\frac{1}{2}$  it gives the attractive investment return of £5 18s. 6d. per cent.

#### PRUDENTIAL DIVIDEND AND BONUSES

A further rise in the dividend on the "A" shares of the Prudential Assurance is an indication of how difficult investment conditions have been more than offset by increased business. The total is raised by 5d. per share to 19s. 5d.-5d. per share, tax-free, for the year, the whole of the increase coming by way of shareholders' profits from the ordinary branch. The dividend on the partly paid "B" shares is again 2s. per share, tax-free. These rates represent respectively 72 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and 50 per cent., tax-free.

Policyholders are to receive the same satisfactory rates of bonus as those paid for the previous year, namely, £2 6s. per cent. on whole life and £2 per cent. on endowment assurances. In the industrial branch the bonus rate is £1 12s. per £100 assured.

Prudential "A" shares stand at about £35 7s. 6d., yielding under 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. gross, or very much the same yield as that on long-term British Government stocks.

#### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Investment opportunities are most plentiful when markets are friendless, and now is the time for the genuine investor, as distinct from the speculator, to pick up good-class stocks or shares to yield a good income with reasonable security. Some of the leading British industrial companies provide the finest security in the world outside British Government stocks themselves. Imperial Tobacco is an example. Profits for 1937 were a record at £10,750,609 and, with £250,000 placed to reserve, the "carry forward" is increased from £1,183,767 to £1,441,405. The 25 per cent. tax-free dividend and bonus give the £1 units at £7 10s. a less-tax yield of nearly 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Such is the strength of "Imps" that, if gilt-edged continue to rise, "Imps" will rise with them.

#### HIGH ENGINEERING YIELDS

Only a few optimists can imagine that 1937 engineering profits represent a normal level. But the armaments programme will go on for years yet, and the argument that expenditure on capital goods has passed its peak does not apply to growing replacement orders. Even allowing for the maximum shrinkage in heavy industries this year, engineering yields are on an extraordinary basis. Here are some examples: Banister Walton 5s. shares at 12s. yield 9 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.; J. Brockhouse £1 units at 55s. give 9 per cent.; Boulton & Paul 5s. shares at 6s. 6d., 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. Manley & Regulus 5s. shares at 8s. 3d., 9 per cent.; Pressed Steel 5s. shares at 16s., over 9 per cent.; W. H. Dean 5s. shares at 12s., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

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